



City of New Bedford  
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City of New Bedford  
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

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For Immediate Release

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### CITY SPONSORS FREE MORTGAGE COUNSELING WORKSHOP AND RELEASES FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GUIDE

**New Bedford, Massachusetts-** New Bedford Mayor Scott W. Lang announced today that the City's Office of Housing and Community Development and the Fall River/ New Bedford Housing Partnership will conduct a free Mortgage Check-Up and Counseling Workshop in New Bedford for borrowers with concerns about their mortgage. This workshop is a vital component of the City's foreclosure prevention initiative. In addition, the Office of Housing and Community Development released a mortgage foreclosure prevention resource guide that identifies important information and resources available to City homeowners in need of foreclosure prevention services.

Mayor Lang stated, "Predatory lending is one of the most daunting challenges facing homebuyers, as well as elderly and fixed-income homeowners in our city. The work the Partnership is doing to educate the community about the dangers of high-risk lending and to provide financial resources is the key to addressing a growing need in our community. The Partnership should be commended for its efforts."

Borrowers having difficulty paying their mortgage, or facing a mortgage rate adjustment are invited to attend a **FREE** counseling workshop held on **Saturday, January 12, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Brooklawn Senior Center, 1997 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford.**

The New Bedford/Fall River Partnership was formed in 2007 to address the marked increase in foreclosure rates and to provide an innovative loan product along with foreclosure prevention counseling to individuals and families faced with a risk of foreclosure. Agencies participating in the Partnership include: The City of New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development, MassHousing, Fannie Mae, Catholic Social Services, Fall River Affordable Housing Corporation, Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Bristol Elder Services, BankFive, Bank of Fall River, Citizens Union Savings Bank, Fall River Municipal Credit Union, St. Anne's Credit Union, New Center for Legal Advocacy. The Partnership conducts ongoing meetings; this workshop is the third in a series of outreach and educational counseling events.

Mayor Lang and the Office of Housing and Community Development have also announced the completion and distribution of a new brochure called “Foreclosure Prevention Resource Guide”. This guide, filled with valuable information, is intended to help people who may be threatened with foreclosure, as well as for those who are simply in need of basic information on the type of services and resources available within the New Bedford community.

“The City is working to inform and educate the community about the help available to borrowers who have concerns about making their mortgage payment and that mortgage counseling is the first step a borrower should take to help save their home.” said Lori Moring, Housing Coordinator for the Office of Housing and Community Development.

For more information about the mortgage workshop, contact the New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development at (508) 979-1500 or the New Bedford/Fall River Housing Awareness Partnership at (774) 888-6450.

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